

Appl. No. 10/693,702
Amdt. Dated 11/26/05
Reply to Office Action of 08/26/05

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the thorough review of the present application. Applicant has canceled claims 1 – 18 and amended claim 19 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection. The specification no longer requires correction in view of the above-mentioned canceled and amended claims. No new matter has been introduced which affects the statutory requirements for patentability. All claim amended are supported in the original specification and drawings.

Applicant respectfully submits the following recitations are neither taught nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record. The underlined recitations are emphasized.

Regarding independent claim 19:

said bag having a reinforced portion around said outer perimeter of said opening of said bag;

said bag being inserted into said opening of said outer sponge such that said outer sponge generally envelops said bag;

a closure means operationally coupled to said reinforced portion for selectively maintaining said opening in a closed position inhibiting access to an interior of said bag;

a paddle member having a head portion and a handle portion, said head portion being selectively positionable in said bag, said handle being adapted for being grasped by a hand of a user;

said bag having a second compartment, said secondary compartment having an opening therein, said head of said paddle being inserted into said second compartment through said opening of said secondary compartment;

wherein said handle portion further comprises a stem portion coupled to said head portion and a handle removably coupled to said stem portion;

wherein said handle is substantially hollow for selectively receiving a user accessory;

wherein said handle is transparent for facilitating visual observation of the user accessory received in said handle;

said stem portion having a first set of threads applied thereon;

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said handle having a second set of threads complementary to said first set of threads applied thereon, said first set of threads and said second set of threads facilitating coupling of said stem portion of said handle portion to said handle of said handle portion;

an o-ring member positionable between said stem portion and said handle;
wherein said head portion having a plurality of holes therethrough, said holes of said head of said paddle being generally tear-shaped;

a lanyard loop operationally coupled to said handle portion; and
a strap member couplable to said lanyard loop for selectively securing said device to a wrist of a user.

Regarding dependent claim 20:

said bag has a first opening for selectively receiving at least one bar of soap and a second opening for receiving said paddle member, said first opening of said bag has a first outer perimeter and a first reinforced portion around said first outer perimeter of said first opening of said bag, said second opening of said bag has a second perimeter and a second reinforced portion around said second outer perimeter of said second opening of said bag; and

said head portion having at least one flexible tab member for selectively engaging a bottom surface of said second reinforced portion for securing said head portion to said bag.

It is respectfully submitted that the combined teachings of the references applied by the Examiner fail to disclose or even suggest the subject matter of the claims at issue. In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the pending claims should be considered as no longer tenable. All pending dependent claims necessarily include the recitations of their independent claims and therefore are also in condition for allowance.


Should the examiner consider necessary or desirable to make formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that

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such changes be made by examiner's Amendment, if the examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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